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MEMORANDUM

TO: Advocacy Organization Executive Directors; Provider Organization Executive Directors; Interested Parties

FROM: Eugene A. Laurent, Ph.D. 
State Director

SUBJECT: Renewal of the Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities Waiver

DATE: May 28, 2009

You are aware that DDSN has been working with DHHS to renew the Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver. This will be a 5-year renewal of the Medicaid home and community-based waiver serving individuals with mental retardation and related disabilities. DDSN received input from randomly selected waiver participants and their families, as well as from interested stakeholders earlier this month. The renewal and recommended changes were reviewed by DHHS' Medical Care Advisory Committee at their meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. The Advisory Committee recommended approval to DHHS executive staff for submission to CMS, the federal Medicaid agency. The recommended changes are attached.

The next step is a public meeting to receive additional comments specific to this waiver renewal. Attached is an announcement of that meeting and a map.

Please share this information with consumers and families, advocates, board members, and staff. Everyone's input is welcome.

EL/sd

Attachments

Cc: Commission Members
Sam Waldrep, DHHS

DISTRICT I

P.O. Box 239
Clinton, SC 29325-5328
Phone: (864) 938-3497

Midlands Center - Phone: 803/935-7500
Whitten Center - Phone: 864/833-2733

9995 Miles Jamison Road
Summerville, SC 29485
Phone: 843/832-5576

DISTRICT II

Coastal Center - Phone: 843/873-5750
Pee Dee Center - Phone: 843/664-2600
Saleeby Center - Phone: 843/332-4104

**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Care Advisory Committee
Item for Committee Advisement**

PREPARED BY: Kara Lewis

PRESENTED BY: Sam Waldrep

DATE: 5/19/09

SUBJECT: Renewal of Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver

OBJECTIVE: To submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a 5-year renewal of the Medicaid home and community-based waiver serving individuals with mental retardation and related disabilities.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) formed a partnership in 1991 to develop community-based services through the MR/RD waiver. This waiver is designed to prevent or delay institutionalization for waiver clients. DHHS provides administrative oversight for the waiver while DDSN is responsible for day-to-day operations. Currently the MR/RD waiver serves approximately 5,700 individuals with a waiting list of 1,400. The waiver is due to expire on September 30, 2009, and DHHS must submit this renewal application in June 2009, to allow for the CMS mandatory 90 day review period.

Due to the state's budget situation, DDSN opted to make several changes to the waiver program. DHHS and DDSN have worked together for many months to consider possible changes administratively allowed within federal regulations. To obtain public input, DDSN conducted a survey of waiver participants, parents and other interested stakeholders, seeking recommendations for changes to the MR/RD waiver. This information guided DDSN toward making necessary budgetary adjustments and includes the following: 1) continuation of core services without changes; 2) placing limits on services; 3) elimination of low utilization services; and 4) as a minor technical change, the state is separating the coverage of Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) from Specialized Medical Equipment, Supplies and Assistive Technology and therefore adding PERS as a separate service in this waiver. The proposed changes are listed below.

Core services to continue unchanged:

Adult Day Health Care

Adult Day Health Care- Transportation

Psychological Services

Day Activity

Community Services

Support Center Services

Behavior Support Services

Adult Day Health Care-Nursing

Residential Habilitation

Private Vehicle Modifications

Career Preparation

Employment Services

Adult Dental Services

Prescribed Drugs

Services for which limitations will be necessary:

- *Environmental Modifications*: lower the lifetime cap from \$7,500 to \$5,000;
- *Specialized Medical Equipment, Supplies and Assistive Technology*:
 - a) lower the monthly limits of diapers, wipes and underpads from up to 3 cases per month to 2 cases per month for each product;
 - b) lower the monthly limit of liquid nutrition (for those without a feeding tube) from up to 3 cases per month to 2 cases per month;
 - c) lower the limit and cost per wheel chair to \$8,000 total and allow only 1 chair every 5 years (previously not specified in waiver);
- *Nursing*: limit services up to 56 hours per week for LPN and 42 hours per week for RN (previously not specified in waiver);
- *In-home Respite*: limit service up to 32 hours per month (previously not specified in waiver). (No change with ICF/MR respite);
- *Personal Care II*: limit service up to 28 hours per week (previously not specified in waiver).

Services to be removed:

Physical Therapy

Occupational Therapy

Speech Language pathology

Day Habilitation (replaced w/Day Activity)

Supported Employment (replaced w/Employment Services)

Prevocational Habilitation (replaced w/Career Preparation)

Audiology

Adult Vision

Adult Companion

Adult Attendant Care

Personal Care I

Service to be added:

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

BUDGETARY IMPACT: DDSN is responsible for the state match portion of operating expenditures. For SFY 07-08, waiver expenditures totaled approximately \$242 million.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: The waiver renewal will allow DDSN to continue serving the client population in a cost-effective manner.

EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED: MR/RD waiver individuals will continue to receive home and community-based long-term care services. Medicaid enrolled/contracted providers will continue to receive reimbursement for waiver services provided in accordance with policy.

RECOMMENDATION: Submit the MR/RD waiver to CMS for a 5-year renewal period.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO GET INPUT ON THE MENTAL RETARDATION/RELATED DISABILITIES
WAIVER RENEWAL FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION,
RELATED DISABILITIES, OR AUTISM**

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) have been partners in the provision of home and community-based waivers since 1991. Currently, DDSN operates three such waivers for DHHS who has the administrative oversight for these programs.

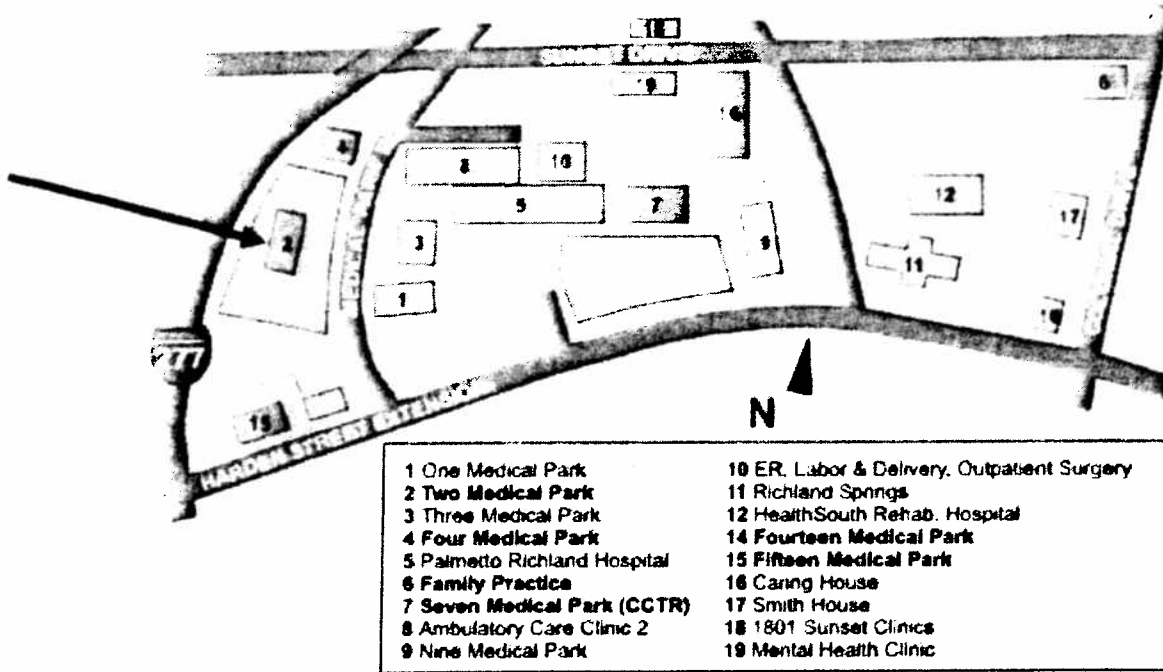
The MR/RD Waiver will expire on September 30, 2009 and must undergo a federal renewal process. As part of the renewal process, DHHS and DDSN are proposing to continue most services in the waiver without changes, to place limits on some services and to eliminate a few services. The changes are necessary due to significant cuts to DDSN's budget. While DDSN's budget was reduced by 21%, the proposed reductions to the MR waiver equal about 2% of waiver spending.

Waiver participants would have a case manager responsible for coordinating and monitoring services and assuring the health and welfare of waiver participants as required by CMS, the federal Medicaid agency. In addition, both DDSN and DHHS will have waiver specific quality management and oversight processes.

For input in the renewal of the MR/RD Waiver, DDSN sent a survey to a random selection of 10% of MR/RD Waiver participants and their families, posted the survey to its website, and distributed the survey to advocacy organizations for their membership. **We are now interested in getting additional input via a public meeting to be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the lower level conference room at Two Medical Park, Medical Park Drive, Columbia. This is on the campus of Palmetto Richland Hospital. A map is attached.**

If you are unable to attend the public meeting, please consider completing a survey on DDSN's website at www.ddsn.sc.gov. When the waiver document is completed, it will be available for review on the DDSN website at www.ddsn.sc.gov.

USC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (PRMH CAMPUS)



Directions from Elmwood Avenue:

- Turn left on Bull Street;
- Turn right at traffic light onto Harden Street Extension (CVS on corner);
- Go to the first traffic light at bottom of hill and turn left;
- Two Medical Park is first building on left;
- Turn left into first driveway entrance (building will be on your right side and the parking lot will be on your left);
- Go to door closest to the steps on the left (door will be marked with sign);
- The lower level conference room will be straight ahead.

If lost call 255-3400 before 5:00 pm.